MAILS OF BOLIVIA

THREE DAYS' GALLOP OVER THE DESAGUADERO PLATEAU.

ODD PARTS OF SOUTH AMERICA

VAST DRIED-UP SEAS OF THE MID-DLE ANDES.

The Bolivian Coachman and His Hor rible Crucity-Queer Fentures of Bolivian Inns-The Poverty

well were to be carried over the country with the Bolivian mails. It seemed to me when I thought of it rather strange that the postal officials should consent to take my heavy trunks, but through my newspaper connections I have sometimes been favored officially, and accepted it as a fact. I fear visions of a glorious red Concord vehicle, with postmen in Bolivian livery, may have come before my innocent soul's eye, and I know it was with conscious pride that I told my friends at La Paz that I was going to travel with the mails. I noticed that some of them rather smiled at the idea, and that others seemed to pity rather than admire. This at the time I attributed to jealousy, envy or ignorance. I know better now. I know what the Bolivian mail coach is. I had my first sight of it at 6 o'clock of the morning of my starting. It was the baggage wagon of the stage, and the only seat on it was the one with the driver. It was, in fact, a skeleton wagon on springs. The bed was so far up in the air that you could almost walk tinder It without stooping. The wagon box was not over six inches high, and how it was summored that a non and a half or classes live in mud hats and fill to the well were to be carried over the country

that not only myself but my baggage as I tracks, there is often no chance to get anything. The only places where you can sleep are in the huts of the Indians, and they will not allow you to come in if they can possibly prevent it. They do not like

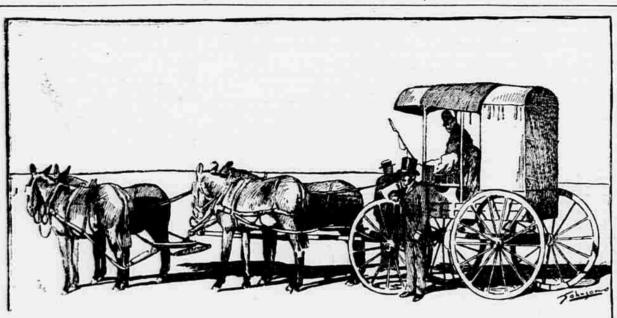
inder it without stooping. The wagon ox was not over six inches high, and how it was supposed that a ton and a half of nail and trunks could be put into it I utmost their little patches of land. But in those countries the land will not be a countries to be a land. But in those countries the land will not be a countries to be a land. But in those countries to be a land or land to the land will not be a land or land to the land will not be a land or land to the land will be a land or land to the land will be a land or land to the land will be a land or land to the land will be a land to the land to Bolivian inns—The Poverty
of the People of the
Plateau.

Plateau.

(Copyrighted, 1858, by Frank C. Carpenter.)

ORURO, BOLAVIA, July 2.—During the past three days I have been riding behind galloping teams of from four to eight mules over the Desaguadero or Bolivian plateau, and I am now in the mining town of Oruro, away up in the mountains, 600 miles by rail

Was supposed that a ton and a mail of mind a mail



land of the sky.

On the Dry Bed of an Inland Sea.

This region is one of the little known parts of the earth. What it was in the past is conjecture. There are many evidences that at one time there lay between these ranges of the Andes a vast inland sea, hundreds of miles long and in places sixty and more miles in width. The Desaguadero plateau, which was a part of this sea, extends from here to Lake Titicaca, there at the north it joins to the gallop to Oruro, and it seemed to me that I could everywhere see signs that the whole plain had once been covered with water. I rode for miles over beds of stones and in other places passed over wide stretches of what seemed like sea sand. Sea shells are often found here, and Pro-Jessor Agnssiz believed that the water level fessor Agnssiz believed that the water level. fessor Agassiz believed that the water level of this sea was from 300 to 400 feet higher than the present level of the basin. To-day the only large bodies of water found in it are Lake Titicaca and Lake Auliagas or Poopo, which are connected by the Desa-guadere river. Lake Poopo is only a short distance from here. It is a brackish lake, fifty miles long by about thirty miles wide fifty miles long by about thirty miles wide and is so deep that it is now proposed to put steamers upon it, and it may be that there will be a line of ships sailing from it through the Desaguadero river to Lake Titleaca. Lake Poopo has no visible outlet, and if its waters get to the sea it is by some waterway under the earth.

There are few good roads in South Amer The ways among the mountains are been cut along the sides of precipiees so that you crawl along within an inch or so of destruction. Now and then a mule falls 2,000 feet or so, and is usually left to lie where it falls. You often have to dismount to help the mules, and it takes hours to go a few miles. There are in the whole country, which is one-sixth the size of the United States, only 725 miles of stage lines, embracing roads to the capital, the city of Sucre, to Potosi, the famous silver minembracing roads to the capital, the city of Sucre, to Potosi, the famous silver mining center, and to Cochabamba, which is a big interior town in what is called the granary of the country. The best road in Bolivia is one over which I have just traveled. I doubt whether there is a finer long stretch of wagon road in the United States. This dried up sea basin forms a natural roadbed. We galloped for hours over a road botter, smoother and harder than any in Central park, New York, and dashed along at breakneck pace over the plains on a track that would have been accepted as excellent by any American jockey. The only work that seemed to have been done on the road was the picking off of the stones. In some places it was as flat as a floor for miles, and in others there was a gradual rise or fall, but not enough to impede the galloping of the mules.

Fifty-five Leagues on a Mail Wagon. Fifty-five Lengues on a Mail Wagon

The distance between La Paz and Orure that is what my coachman estimated th distance. The geographers, who have probably not gone over it, put it at 130 miles, but after my ride I am willing to swear by the coachman, and to say that they La Paz stage runs twice a week to Oruro. It is one of the worst looking rattle-traps that was ever put upon wheels, and the broken-down carriages which carry passengers from our country towns to the fair grounds would be classed as heavenly chariests beside it. It has six sous inside grounds would be classed as heavenly chariets beside it. It has six seats inside and one with the driver. It was the driver's seat that I covered, but I found at the stage office that the whole inside had been taken for his ramily by a rich Bolivian and that the outside seat was already engaged. There was no better chance for the next stage, three days later, and for a time it seemed that I should have to go on the back of a mule or hire a private conveyance for \$150-Bolivian dollars. At this moment my guide, adviser and friend in ways Bolivian, Mr. Sam Klotz, of La Paz, advised be to try to get a seat on the mail coach.

BOLIVIAN STAGE COACH.

Bolivian Coachmen and the Mule.

My coachmen in livery were in fact Bolivian Cholos. They were halfbreeds, a cross of the Spaniards and the Aymara Indian, and as cruel a mixture as you will find among the races. They had no sympathy whatever for the mules and their treatment of them was so cruel that I several times protested against it. In the first place, the harness was twisted all out of shape. There was not a tug that was straight and not a collar that it. As a result the necks of the animals were raw and sore, and this became worse as we went on the gallop over the road. I remember one Puno plains of Peru, and far south of the gallop over the road. I remember one little yellow mule who had lost two patches of skin, each as big as the palm of your hand, from the front of his shoulders better mules in going from Lake Titicaca to La Paz it was forty-seven miles wide, and the ground was almost as flat as a floor, if found it almost level in my three days' blitched up all the same and was given one lost I have seen are Hartford and better mules in the corral, but he was lost two patches of skin, each as big as the palm of your hand, from the front of his shoulders better we were other and better mules in the corral, but he was in all cases of native make. The only all the same and was given one littled up all the same and was given one are Hartford and better mules in the tree. hitched up all the same and was given one of the hardest places in the team. This was just below me, next to the wagon and right under the driver. We started off on the gailop, but the little fellow soon began to lag behind. Then the torture began to lag behind. Then the began to lag behind the lazy mules, picked out the little yellow the lazy mules, picked out the little yellow the fellow as his special work. We had not gone five miles before the back of the mule's legs were bleeding in a half dozen different places, and I could see that his collar was red with blood from the sores on his neck. From time to time I noticed that the driver when he found his whipping and whistling failed to stir up the mules took up a heavy tug with an iron white add single to stream and the mules took up a heavy tug with an iron white add single to stream and the same that the driver when he found his whipping and whistling failed to stir up the mules took up a heavy tug with an iron white add single to the same t nto increased speed. As the little yellow ellow again fell behind I found the secre

which is like no other on the face of the globe. Situated from 12,000 to 15,000 feet above the sea, it has a soil, a vegetation and a climate peculiarly its own. Its skies as viewed from day to day, are different from those which hang over any part of the United States. Its people are like none we have on our continent, and I seem to be in another world. It is the world on the heights, the land highest on earth on which numerous cities and villages exist, a very land of the sky. mals from straying, and with unerring air sends a stone straight at the llama or she that steps onto the fields of her neighbor

who use little strips of iron shaped something like an arrow with a wide, flat stem.
This is grasped in the middle with the hand
and the woman, bending double, scoops the
polatoes out of the hills. Barley is cut
with little sickles with saw teeth and such
rude hoes as are used have handles so
short that the workers have to bend close
to the ground to use them.

The plewing is all done by oxen with rude wooden plows, to which a point mad of a flat iron bar about two inches wide i fastened. A long tongue or beam extends from the plow to the yeke, which is tied to the horrs of the oxen, the weight of pulling the plow being done with the head and not with the shoulders, as with us.

Freight Wagons of the Andes. I have given you some idea of how freight is carried here by wagon. Very few goods are taken from one part of the coun



A CACO TRAIN RESTING FOR THE NIGHT

The driver swung the tug about his head and brought it down with a terrible thud upon the little mule's back. It is a wonder it did not break the bones, for the heavy iron chain hit him on the spine, and the pain must have been intense. The blow in this case did not break the skin, though I saw subsequent ones given to other mules which made bloody gashes in their backs. We changed mules every lifteen or twenty miles and rarely had a team that was not more or less scarred and bloody when we got through.

The Country Hotels of Holivia.

During the trip I had some chance to get a taste of the country hotels of Bolivia There was no better chance for the next stage, three days later, and for a time it seemed that I should have to go on the back of a male of libre a private conveys moment my guide, advisor and friend in ways Bolivian, Mr. Sam Klotz, of La Paz, advised be to try to get a seat on the mail coach.

This seemed to me just the thing, and who here the better than the property of the course of the seemed that there was always room for one passenger on it, and that the place had not been taken. I jumped at it, and the first property in the course of the property of the propert The stations where we stopped to eat and sleep were more like cow stables than he

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leaves on their backs to the towns further south.

There were llamas loaded with bundles of silver ore stalking proudly along with cocked ears, and there were many trains of mules carrying goods of all kinds. Each train was managed by one or two Indian men and women, who walked with or behind the animals, and who, as far as I could see, never ride them. Most of the women had bundles on their backs and not a few carried little babies there slung in shawls. All prospectors here use mules for traveling over the country. All supplies for the mines must be carried through the mountains in this way. The machinery for mining in Bolliva must be made in sections, no plece of which can be larger than a mule can carry on its back, and every bit of machinery has to be carried in this way. The merchandise which our exporters intend for Bollivia should be put up in boxes of bales of about 100 pounds each, so that two of the packages will just form a load for a mule. Otherwise the chief centers of Bollivian trade cannot be reached.

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"Any rural urchin," said the naturalist, "if he is a genuine boy, can tell you where you may find a nest of every variety of bird in his neighborhood except the humming bird. And yet this mite of the feathered kingdom is commoner than many other species of birds whose frests the urchin can take you to.

"A humming bird's nest is a sight worth going a good ways to see. It was years after I began taking more than an ordinary interest in animal life that I first saw one of these nests. I noticed one summer day that a fine specimen of the ruby throat, after hovering about my flower beds until it had satisfied itself with what they until it had satisfied itself with what they afforded, invariably flashed away in one direction, following a straight line as far as I could see it, toward a thick piece of woods a mile or so distant. One afternoon I followed the course of the humber the bird dis-

I followed to the second point of the bird's disappearance, waited again, and once more, after another visit, I suppose, to my garden, it passed and kept on toward the woods. This time, being on the watch, I saw the wee bird as it approached, and was able to keep it in the line of vision longer than I had before. After four relays of watching in this way the humming bird led me to a clump of dogwood trees, where it disappeared. "Satisfied that the humming bird's nest

me to a clump of dogwood trees, where it disappeared.

"Satisfied that the humming bird's nest was in that clump of trees somewhere, I began search for it, but I don't believe I would have found it but for a bluejay flying into one of the trees and lighting on a branch. The jay had scarcely perched on the limb when I saw something dart toward him, and as the big bird hopped and fluttered about, evidently reluctant to leave the spot, I saw that he was being fiercely assailed by the female humming bird. The little thing hummed like a buzz saw, darting upon the jay from above, below, and from every side, striking him with her long, needle-like bill, while he screeched and jumped about, but was utterly unable to parry a blow of his radiant but furious foe. Presently the male humming bird appeared and joined his mate in the attack on the intruding bluejay, which was soon glad to take himself off, followed by the pugnacious little fairies until he went screeching out of sight.

"The humming birds returned to the tree and instead of mysteriously disappearing

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"Then she rose and buzzed and hummed about me with as belligerent intent as she had darted about the Jay. I remained only long enough to see that two of the timest of tiny eggs were in the nest, and then descended and went away. I visited the dogwood copse daily after that, and after a few days my presence ceased to disthe dogwood copse daily after that, and after a few days my presence ceased to disturb the humming birds and they came and went as if I were not there. I learned that the male relieved his mate at intervals, and that humming birds carry on fierce daily warfare against other members of the feathered tribe that come anywhere near their nesting places, attacking the big, flapping crow with the rame fearlessess as they do a swarrow and driving him ness as they do a sparrow and driving him

away apparently as easily.
"In time two little nestlings appeared in this nest if mine—the oddest looking things. noon I followed the course of the humming bird to the spot where the bird disappeared from view, and waited there to see if the little creature would pass that way on another flight, intending to line the bird to its home as the bee hunter does the wild bee. What course it took back to my garden I don't know, but in a few minutes either this bird or her mate passed where I sat, humming its way homeward. It was only a momentary glimpse that I caught of it, passing, as it did, like a ray of light, but enough to see tint it went on as straight as a bee line.

In time two little nestlings appeared in this nest if mine—the oddest looking things, not bigger than a bee. One day, after the such back no more that season. I then one to the nest. It was deserted and the birds in the foliage hovered about a particular spot en a twisted and gnarled branch, and this nest if mine—the oddest looking things, not bigger than a bee. One day, after the spokes and make a dash to get through. The resource that it was deserted and the birds came back no more that season. I then one that season. I then one that it was deserted and the birds are back no more that it was deserted and the birds in the foliage hovered about a particular spot en a twisted and gnarled branch, and there of dodes a bicycle. As the wheel title nestlings appeared in this nest if mine—the oddest looking things, not bigger than a bee. One day, after the sub little nestlings appeared in this nest if mine—the oddest looking things, not bigger than a bee. One day, after the sub little nestlings appeared in this nest if mine—the oddest looking things, not bigger than a bee. One day, after the sub little nestlings appeared in this nest if mine—the oddest looking things, not bigger than a bee. One day, after the sub little nestlings appeared in that was oble and make a dash to get through. The resource the nest if mine—the oddest looking things, not bigger than a bee. One day, after the sub little nestlings appeared in this nest if mine—the oddest looking things, not b

that even her delicate piumage was unruffled by contact with its mess-covered edges.
For a short time the male snuggled down
close beside his mate, then poised himself
a moment on his whirring wings above the
nest and disappeared. I then stepped from
my hiding place in the bushes. The bird on
the nest did not move. Not until I had
climbed the tree and bent over the nest did
she seem to realize that she was discovered.
"Then she rose and buzzed and hummed
about me with as belligerent intent as"

apolls may be found the dead bodies of sparrows. To the greater number of those who travel over the paths it has always been a mystery why the sparrows should be found on the path instead of on the road. If they had been injured there were plenty of other places for the disposition of their bodies, but for one found elsewhere there are always four or five on the cycle paths. The secret of it is this, vouched for by many cyclists: The sparrows, in flying close to the ground, have occasion many times to dodge a bicycle. As the wheel revolves rapidly they do not see the spokes and make a dash to get through. The result is, of course, fatal in almost every instance, and the body of the bird is left lying on the cycle path.

422, 423 and 424 N. Y. Life bldg., tel. 1484; iniformed patrolmen furnished day and right, RIGHTS SECURED By Higdon, Fisher & Thorpe, Diamond building, Junction, Main and Delaware streets, Kansas City, Mo. HORSESHOERS. PHOTOGRAPHER. Fromhart, A. Copying and enlarging. 1913-15 Walnut st.

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